

Rural District of Winslow.

Medical Officer of Health's Report.

1908.

EDWIN J. FRENCH, PRINTER, WINSLOW.

To the Winslow Rural District Council.



Winslow, February, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

Commencing my Report for 1908, I will first draw your attention to Table IV. You will see that the total number of deaths was only 88, the lowest on record. This includes 8 from Willesden in the Workhouse, so the mortality is really 80. I have known it to be over 200, of course the mortality has been gradually decreasing for some years, and last year (1908) was particularly healthy all over England, owing no doubt to absence of extreme heat or cold. In November there was actually no death at all for the whole of the month, that is a record for any month, and November is usually associated with fogs and unhealthy weather generally. Look at the long list which the Local Government Board required to know the number of deaths from—viz. Small Pox, Measles, Scarlatina, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Croup, Typhus, Enteric, Diarrhœa, &c., &c., sixteen in all, and we have not one case recorded in either. This is a satisfactory sanitary record. Heart Diseases account for 12, and diseases of Respiratory organs, 19. The Cancer mortality was four only. The infant mortality is small, only 11. On the other hand the birth rate is gradually declining, 144 being registered.

Table III—on which all cases of Infectious Diseases have to be notified, registers one under Diphtheria and six under Scarlatina. They were all of a mild nature and in no single instance spread to others. The Diphtheria case was at Hogston, in June. Previously to this there had been no Zymotic Disease for a twelve month. This girl, though slightly affected, was paralysed for a time. There had been several cases, with some deaths, in a neighbouring parish not in your district, and there had been communication resulting in some sore throats, I believe, in the village. A boy in North Marston suffered from Scarlatina in June. Three children, all of one family in Winslow, in November, and the same month one child at Swanbourne and one at Grandborough. It is often difficult to trace the origin of these isolated cases, and it was so here. Although the children disquamated freely and there were other children sometimes in the house, and I fear in the room, no others contracted the disease.

Two houses have been condemned for insanitary conditions, one has been improved and domestic animals removed from the yard, the other is still closed.

Many other houses have been examined, but our suggestions being complied with the matter has dropped.

Stewkley has had good health, there being no Zymotic Disease notified, and so has Shenley Brook End. They both attained unenviable notoriety at one time. I think the removal of many pigstyes at Stewkley has had a good effect, and perhaps those owners concerned will now themselves admit it is so. This village has been gradually improving its drainage at some £160 cost, but the dispute between the Thames Conservancy and your Authority still goes on. The distance is 100 miles, at times no effluent runs at all towards the River, and moreover the Analysts do not always agree as to the state of the effluent.

This last year was deficient in rainfall, and at the present time there is some scarcity of drinking water, notably at Grandborough. Most of our supply indeed, as I have noticed often before, comes from shallow wells.

From observations during my year's work I do not think that there are any particular insanitary conditions in the District.

The Workshop Act does not affect us as much as some districts, there being none of the Manufactures mentioned in the Schedule. The Bakehouses are all now whitewashed as required, there are none underground nor connected with sewage, or attached to living rooms. There have been two new applications, both in Winslow, for licensed premises for Slaughter-houses, and in each case we made a lengthened examination of the proposed site, making suggestions which were readily complied with.

Owing to the steadily dwindling population Cottage accommodation is fairly ample, with the exception of Grandborough, where half-a-dozen new cottages are required.

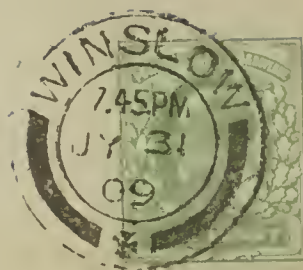
You have adopted the Dairy and Cowsheds Act and appointed an Inspector. There are 182 Farmers whose premises come under this Act, and some Agriculturists have three or more Cowsheds, so that it will require all the energy of your Inspector to get round twice in the year. Some of the firms in London pay for Veterinary Inspection.

I am,

Yours obediently,

T. F. VAISEY,

Medical Officer of Health.



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